Title: Exemption of customs duty for research consumables and equipments for treatment of cancer and some other critical diseases.

DR. V. SAROJA (RASIPURAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, the Regional Cancer Institute, Adayar, Chennai is one of the most important cancer research institutes and is treating almost all cancer patients in advanced stage. This Institute had been declared as a centre of excellence during 1998 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. The Institute is also recognised by the Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. I request for the customs duty exemption for research consumables and equipment. The Government of India has withdrawn this concession from 31st August, 2001. Most of the molecular biological consumables have to be imported. May I request the hon. Minister to reconsider my request? The hon. Minister of Finance, in the *Key Features of the Budget, 2002,* has announced: "Eight more drugs used for treatment of cancer and some other critical diseases, included in the list of fully exempted drugs". I request the customs duty exemption to be given for these also.